Withdrawal of I.P.K.F. from Sri Lanka

2718. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Agreement with Sri Lanka despatch and withdrawal of IPKF is only connected with Sri Lankan Government's wishes;

(b) whether there is any categorical clause making IPKF withdrawal conditional on certain other factors; if so, what is the specific clause to this effect; and

(c) whether Government are going to comply with the wishes of Sri Lankan Government to withdraw the IPKF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) As the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement is a bilateral one, such decisions have to be taken through mutual consent.

(b) The IPKF is in Sri Lanka under the terms of ISLA to help in the implementation of the Agreement and to ensure the physical safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern Province. The withdrawal of the IPKF is therefore linked to these considerations.

(c) Government has held consultations with the Sri Lankan Government in this regard. This matter can be decided only through mutual consultations.

Misappropriation of Money by a Cashier of Indian High Commission in Singapore

2719. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case involving misappropriation of about Rs. 5.36 lakhs, (67,000 Singapore dollars) by a Cashier of the Indian High Commission in Singapore had been settled by the High Commissioner out of court, on refund of money by the Cashier and also after owning responsibility; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the case and how it was settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mrs. Leela Pillai, a locally recruited Singapore national, deployed as Cashier in the Consular Wing of the High Commission of India, Singapore, misappropriated a total amount of Singapore dollars 62,970|- (Equivalent to Indian Rupees 3,65,680|-) from out of the Mission's consular revenue during the period from August 1987 to July 1988. On detection of the misappropriation in August 1988, the matter was reported to the Singapore Police for recovery of the defalcated amount and for appropriate action against Mrs. Pillai for criminal breach of trust. The service of Mrs. Leela Pillai were terminated with effect from 1st September, 1988. While the investigation by the Singapore Police was in progress, Mrs. Pillai submitted a letter of apology in April 1989 to the High Commission owning reesponsibility and liability for any discrepancy and shortage in the accounts during the period she was Cashier. Simultaneously, the High Commission was given a Bank Draft for Singapore dollars 62,970|- as full payment to make good the shortage in the consular revenues. Mrs. Pillai pleaded with the High Commission not to proceed with the investigation any further.

In view of the full refund of the defalcated amount, the Ministry of External Affairs decided not to pursue the case against Mrs. Pillai for prosecution. It was also considered